FREE GRATIS

TRI-LINGUAL

IRONBOUND VOICES

Vol. 23 No. 1 Summer 2000

Marching For Land For Schools

Library Holds Womens' Health Program

Neighborhood women gathered for a special workshop on Womens' Health presented May 12 at the Van Buren St. Branch of the Newark Public Library. The excellent program was presented by Dr. Debbie Salas-Lopez from UMDNJ (shown 4th from left), and covered many topics, including diet, regular health check ups, and mental health issues. Wilma Gray (2nd from left), Assistant Director of Community Library Services, welcomed workshop guests, and librarian Susan Blake (rear row left) thanked all those in attendance.

Womens' Health

Through a grant from the March of Dimes, the Ironbound Community Corporation is offering free pregnancy testing to all women. Women may also receive early prenatal health care, education on healthy nutrition, education on diet for women of child-bearing age. For more information, contact Lorraine Limaldi, 432 Lafayette St., 465-0555.

Free Cancer Screenings

Ironbound Community Corporation, Susan G. Komen Breast Cancer Foundation, St. Stephan's United Church of Christ, Grace Lutheran Community, and UMDNJ are joining forces to bring free mammograms and cervical cancer tests to women who are eligible. A variety of events are planned for this project, with free breast and cervical cancer screenings at different locations throughout the neighborhood.

On June 16, women may register at 432 Lafayette St. for breast and cervical screening to be done June 24 and 30. Education for how to detect cancer will also take place. On June 30, the UMDNJ Mobile Van for breast and cervical screening will be part of the Summer Blast Health Fair *(see box on cover).*

For more information, and the complete schedule, call: ICC FACES Program at 465-0555, or St. Stephan's United Church of Christ, 344-2856.

ICC Opens Childrens' Health Education Center: ICHEC

Ironbound Community Corporation held a grand opening for its new Childrens' Health Education Center recently. The well equipped modern Center, located at 432 Lafayette St will provide a range of health and health education services for children and adults in the community, including, asthma assessments, immunization drives, growth and developmental assessments, pregnancy testing, prenatal counseling, childbirth education, and parent education. All services provided by the Center will be available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.

The Center will also be home to Ironbound's "Asthma Buster" program, and will make referrals to health care providers. The Center's Health Services Coordinator is Lillian Montalvo, a nurse, and its co-directors are Evin Akay and Lorraine Limaldi.

For information call 454-9199, or call the Toll Free Help Line: 1-877-KID-AIRS.

1-877-KID-AIRS

Caring For Our Parks:

Our Neighborhood Back Yard

It was an ambitious project: clean up Independence Park after a week of use by hundreds of Ironbound residents. But on May 13, Ricardo Oliveira was up to the challenge, as part of his Eagle Scout project, and with a little help from his firends, in this case, other scouts from Scout Troop 50.

They're painting the benches green. Scouts Danny Nata (top) and Rui da Silva (bottom).

In addition to painting, the scouts picked up garbage. Shown above (left to right): Danny Cruz, Rui Amorim and Julio Silva.

The stories vary on how the benches at the Girls Softball Field on Oliver St. disappeared, but everyone is sure how they got back: - parents made phone calls and Essex County got the message, and put the new benches in. It's known as "teamwork!"

National Visitor Tours Riverbank Park

On April 26, 2000, Riverbank Park had a visit from Charles Birnbaum, author of the regulations for Historic Preservation from the National Park Service in Washington, D.C. Mr. Birnbaum was in Newark to give a talk at the Newark Museum, and to participate in ceremonies at Branch Brook Park. Branch Brook and Riverbank, now both on the National Historic Register, were designed by Frederick Law Olmsted, and his partners. Frederick Law Olmsted championed the imporance of beuatiful parks in the city. He also designed Central Park in New York City.

Mr. Birnbuam toured Riverbank with members of SPARK (Save the Park At RiverbanK), the group which saved the park from becoming a minor league baseball stadium, and SPARK's landscape preservation expert, Daniel Dowd.

While construction work at the park slowed down in the last few months due to disputes between the contractor, the consultants and the Essex County Improvmenet Authority, work on the restoration of the buildings has continued.to progress behind the scenes. SPARK helped to gather and provide comments to the architect, Greg Comito, about how the buildings will be used so he could develop his designs. Bids for the architectural work are scheduled to go out in early June and work on the buildings would begin over the summer.

The projected opening for the park is spring of 2001. SPARK has set up a group dedicated to issues of maintenance, security, and programming once the park reopens. "We hope to have a wonderful community celebration when the park reopens," said Begonia Kowet, SPARK member.

Meanwhile, SPARK has a slideshow about various stages of the work at the park which it has shown in a number of local schools. The slideshow was shown at the Van Buren St. Library on March 26, and at the Clifford St. Senior Citizen Center. If you have a group which would like to see the slideshow, contact Nancy Zak, at 589-3353.

Charles Birnbaum (right), Director of Historic Preservation from the National Park Service, Washington, D.C., and Jim Lecky (left) from the Branch Brook Park citizens group, get a tour from Dan Dowd, SPARK's expert on landscape preservation.

140 Thomas St. Comes Down

"The timebomb", one fire inspector called it. That was in 1983, when barrels and barrels of extremely hazardous materials were found stored in illegally in this giant old factory. The Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste helped neighbors in a hard fight to get the dangerous chemicals removed The building, owned by the city, stayed up, and abandoned, and later, became dangerous in other ways, like drugs and fires. The property was finally sold to a private company, and blown up on Sunday, May 21. It will be replaced by 52 two family houses.

Dioxin: Work To Begin At Superfund Site

It was 1983. The Governor was down in "the Island". Hayes Pool was closed due to dioxin contamination. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) set up a trailer to take down health complaints. Men wearing white suits who looked like astronauts were vacuuming dirt up from the streets The highest level of dioxin contamination ever recorded in this country was found in Ironbound, at the Diamond Alkali factory, located at 120 Lister Ave. Dioxin, a deadly chemical which can damage the human immune system, was formed during production of Agent Orange, used in the Vietnam War.

This year in April, seventeen years later, the EPA announced the beginning of construction work at the site on what they call a "containment system." The company which is responsible for the work, Chemical Land Holdings, Inc. will build walls around the site, and cover it to protect from exposure to the elements. The cover, or cap, is designed to last for 30 years. A monitor system will be installed for the groundwater underneath the area to make sure contaminated soil or water are not leaking. The work to be done at the site will cost $20 million.

The "containment system" was approved by the EPA in 1987, after community residents rejected a plan to incinerate the dioxin contaminated material at the site. "The EPA's plan is the best alternative among a number of bad choices," said Arnold Cohen, from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW). "In the future, there may be other alternatives."

The federal court settlement with Chemical Land Holdings, Inc., the property owner, requires that every 2 years, the company must evaluate whether any new technology exits that could provide a more protective and permanent remedy for the dioxin. Under the court order, Chemical Land Holdings Inc. is responsible for the cost, construction and maintenance of the "containment system."

Because of resident concerns, a number of measure will be put in place during the construction work, including:

* Air monitoring will be done in the area during the work to ensure that no toxics are released into the surrounding community.

* There is an emergency hotline which residents can call if they observe or experience any problems. It is **212- 637-4248** (or 973- 282-0558).The EPA will also be at the site on a regular basis to deal with resident complaints.

Members of the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste have also raised the issue of "community give back." "A discovery like this means your property values drop, and your health suffers," said Steve Powell from the ICATW. "It is only fair that the multi-million dollar companies responsible for polluting this community with dioxin now do something to help this community out."

So far Chemical Land Holdings has agreed to employ contractors from the area to do the work, and other options, such as helping the community to acquire land for recreational opportunities, are also being explored.

"Residents have played an important role in minimizing the damage from this dioxin to the community."

"Residents have played an important role in minimizing the damage from this dioxin to the community up to this point," said Joe Nardone, from the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste. "It is important that residents be well-informed, and continue to monitor this project closely."

News Flash!

EPA SAYS DIOXIN IS 10TIMES MORE DANGEROUS THAN THEY THOUGHT

TURN PAGE FOR STORY

New EPA Report On Dioxin Danger

A draft of a long awaited report by the Envrionmental Protection Agency (EPA) concludes for the first time that dioxin is a "humnan carcinogen," citing new evidence of cancer risk from exposure to the toxic chemical compound.

According to an article which appeared in the Star Ledger on May 18, the danger from dioxin is cumulative - that is the longer you are exposed to it, the more dangerous it becomes to you. Dioxin comes from both natural and industrial sources, such as medical and municipal waste incinerators. When animals eat plants contaminated with dioxin, dioxin becomes part of the food chain. It can cause cancers in humans, including lymphomas and lung cancer.

The EPA report says that the chances of developing cancer caused by dioxin in some people could be as high as 1 in 100. That is 10 times higher than the EPA's previous projections.

The danger is 10 times higher than the EPA's previous projections.

Exposure to even low amounts of dioxin can be dangerous and cause other health problems such as diabetes, and developmental defects in babies and children. Children's intake of dioxin is higher than adult's because of the presence of dioxin in dairy milk from contaminated cows (and even in breast milk).

"Dioxin is a by-product of burning garbage, and was one of the reasons which the Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste fought against the construction of a garbage incinerator in this community," said June Kruszewski. "Ironbound already had the country's highest levels of dioxin at the Diamond Alkali factory where they made Agent Orange. That dioxin contaminated this entire neighborhood. We certainly didn't need any to bring any more dioxin here."

Groups Supporting The Petition Drive

* Ironbound Little League
* St. James Church
* Immaculate Heart of Mary Church
* Our Lady of Fatima Church
* Ironbound Boys & Girls Club
* Portuguese American Congress
* Congress of Portuguese American Educators
* St. Aloysius Church
* Trinity Reformed Church
* Wolff Memorial Presbyterian Church
* St. Benedict's Church
* St. Stephan's United Church of Christ
* Grace Community Lutheran Church
* Ironbound Community Corporation
* Aspen Riverpark Tenants Association
* Associação Recreativo Cultural Gafanhense

"The question now is, is anybody listening, and what will they do about it?"

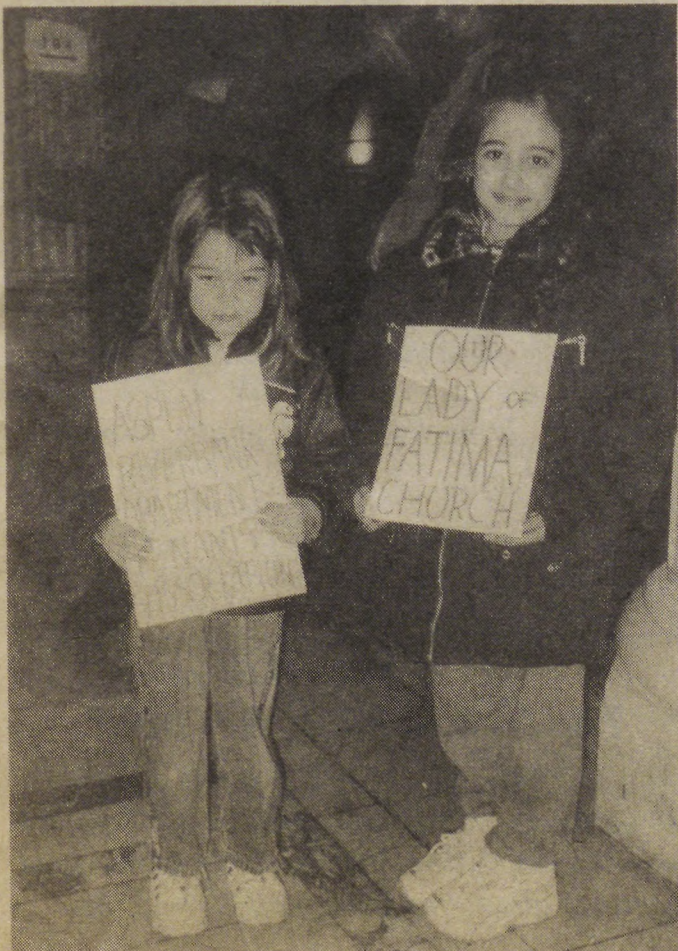
Father George Lutz, at City Hall

Community Petition Drive:

Ironbound Brings A Message To City Hall

Ironbound organizations, businesses, churches, and residents joined together in an impressive effort to make their collective voice heard at City Hall. A delegation presented hundreds of petitions to the Mayor, the City Council, and the Central Planning Board, calling for the City to take immediate steps to address the growing problems caused by unplanned development.

"With this effort, the community is saying, enough is enough," said Father George Lutz from St. James Church. "The question now is, is anybody listening and will they do anything?"

The pictures on this page show some members of the delegation, young and old, who delivered the petitions to City Hall.

David Schnegelberger greets Deputy Mayor Hector Corchado, who accepted the large box filled with petitions for Mayor Sharpe James.

Schools: Where Will They Be Built?

continued from p. 8

"The comments of the community have been essential to this process so far," said Corwin Frost from the Newark Public Schools. "We intend to maintain a dialogue with the community as we move forward."

"The important thing is that we identify what land we want for schools, or several options we are considering, and reserve it now," said Joseph Rendeiro, principal of Hawkins St. School. "If we wait too long, the available land will be gone."

Success!

Ann St. School To Get Some Relief From Overcrowding

An immediate result of the three hearings on schools which were held in Ironbound during February is that Ann St. school will get help with its overcrowding problem this September. Six temporary classroom units will be installed next to the school.

"This will be a tremendous improvement," said Principal Joseph Maccia. "I will be able to move all my fifth grade classes to these new classrooms, and that means that class sizes will be down to twenty or so." (Class sizes at Ann St. have been running over forty in some cases).

"We are really happy," said Karen Acal, PTA President at Ann St. "This will allow us to have smaller class sizes, and that means more effective teaching and learning."

Overcrowding in the schools was a constant theme of the 3 public hearings in Ironbound, sponsored jointly by the Ironbound Community Corporation and the Newark Public Schools.

The New Jersey State Supreme Court has ruled that the state must pay to replace overcrowded and outdated schools in districts with low incomes. The Newark Public Schools responded to Ironbound's request for input on their facilities plans, and agreed to hold public meetings. A number of residents have signed up to be part of an ongoing committee to work on this issue.

Members of the committee, and others, have continued to meet with the School District consultants to try to finalize proposals for where the new schools should be. Discussions have touched on many issues including:

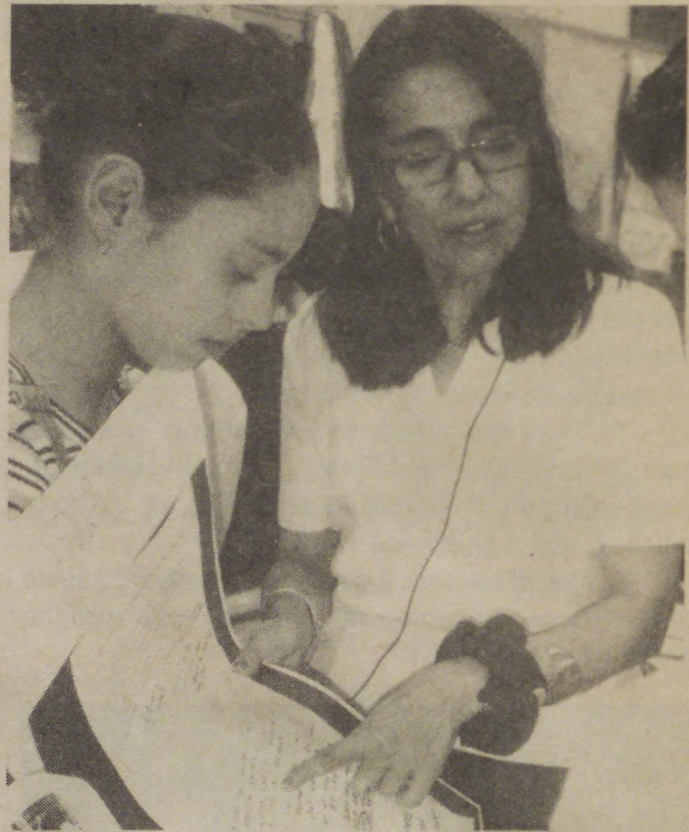
* the desire to keep some of the character of the old buildings. The District said this was possible, if the community wanted it, and it was cost effective.

* the need for toxic waste to be cleaned off of possible sites

* the question of bussing students from outlying parts of the neighborhood

* the availability of the land

As the consultants research the issues, and meet with residents, their proposals are changing.

Cont. on p. 7

Students from Lafayette St. School's 6th grade class won top prizes in their school (and second prize citywide) for their work to graph the effects of new housing development on the schools and parks in Ironbound. Shown above, teacher Diana Silva talks with students about their work, which was exhibited as part of the citywide math fair at New Jersey Institute of Technology. "The graphs show how overcrowded our schools have become. It is dramatic," said Ms. Silva. The students based their work on information available to the public in the Newark Public Schools Facilities Report and the City of Newark's masterplan.

So Where Will The New Schools Be Built?

The proposed sites for new schools have been changing. For an update on exactly where the new schools are proposed or the next meetings about this issue, call 589-3353.

"Land For Learning" Brings Hundreds To City Hall Steps

Residents Win A Victory

Ironbound residents marched up Lafayette St. all the way to city Hall, on Wednesday, April 19, and joined hundreds of other Newark residents for a noon-time rally demanding "Land for Schools." Waving red balloons, children, parents and senior citizens walked from outside Lafayette St. School led by a police escort. The Ironbound Boys & Girls Club bus, and the Ironbound Community Corporation's yellow bus led the parade. "What do we want? New schools! When do we want them? Now!" was the chant.

At City Hall, residents from every ward asked the Mayor, City Council and Central Planning Board to reserve land for the new schools which are mandated by court order to be built in Newark. The Abbott vs. Burke case orders poor school districts to replace substandard or overcrowded schools. Schools in Ironbound are on the average 62% overcrowded, some by as much as 200%. The Central Planning Board recently gave land which was earmarked for a school in the north ward to a housing developer.

"Do we want Newark to be a place where things get built because they fit in with what people in the neighborhoods say they want or need, or a place where things get built because of who gets there first, who has the most money, or who has the most political influence?" asked Richard Cammarieri, a north ward resident.

Lidia Rossi, a parent from Ann St. School, asked the city to "make education the city's number one priority." Lito Miranda, a parent from Hawkins St. School, stressed the need for the city to put sites for schools on the Land Use maps it is proposing for its new masterplan, which would stop them from being developed.

"Newark is supposed to be the Renaissance City, that is the city of learning, "said Mark Tronco. " But it seems we haven't even learned the alphabet. We have the A - the Arts Center. We have the B - the baseball stadium, and the basketball arena. But we seem to have skipped the C - the children."

Two days after the Land for Learning Rally, the Mayor announced that he would try to reclaim the land which had been given away.

Parents and children gather on Lafayette St. for the Land for Learning Rally At City Hall.

Trenton Rally For Funds

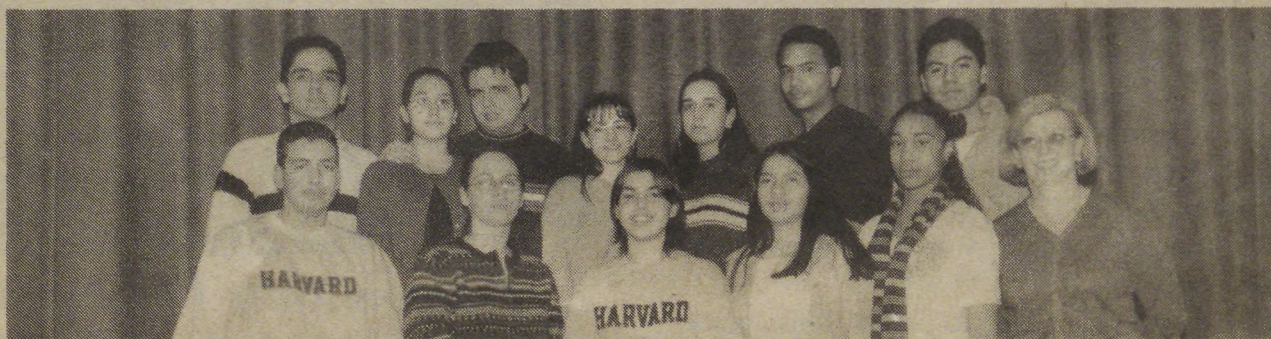
Ironbound residents took a bus ride to Trenton on May 22 joining residents from poor districts around the state to call for 100% funding of the necessary school construction.program to make certain that overcrowded schools get replaced, and all schools are in good condition..

COPAE Awards Dinner

The Congress of Portuguese American Educators held its 17th Annual Scholarship Dinner April 1. Three high school students - Amanda Da Silva, Jenny Lemos and Heliosa Pinto - received awards which will assist them to continue their education. In addition, COPAE honored several people for their contribution to the community. Shown above is Mr. Jose Martins (right), from the Luso Americano, received an award for his dedicated journalism work. from Alfred Rendeiro. Also receiving awards were Robert Salgueiro, former vice-principal at Lafayette St.School (now retired) and Dr. Margarida Carrasco, currently the principal of Roberto Clemente Elementary School in Newark.

International Day At Ironbound Childrens' Center

Staff and children at the Ironbound Childrens' Center recently dressed up in costumes of their native countries and brought in their native foods to share. Shown above (left to right, back row): Rita Calvopina, Sylvia Ribao; (front row) Heather Calvopina, Stacy Ferrer and Jean Pierre Vaca.

East Side High School Wins Debate Honors

This is the sixth year of competition for East Side's Debate Team. This year, in addition to various trophies earned at different tournaments., Marisa Henriques shared top honors with Barbara Allen for the title of State Champion, 2000. In the photo: (front row, left to right)Fred Viegas, Marisa Henriques, Fernanda Clorreia, Rosa Montedeoca, Tanisha Clarke, Mrs. M. Rosenbaum, coach; (second row, left to right) Antonio Matheus, Ana Dos Santos, Dario Camara, Heloisa Pinto, Irene Formoso, Rafael Rivera and Diego Sanchez.

"A Senior Celebration Of Love"

That was the theme for *Older American Month* at the Ironbound Senior Center at Clifford St. this year. It was also the theme for the wedding of two of its members held on May 18.

Ramiro (Ray) Garcia (age 78) and Concetta (Connie Vitolo, (age 81), both widowed and friends for many years, decided to hold their wedding party with their family at the Clifford St. Center. (A special party with their children and relatives, who live far away, will be held later in the year).

The wedding was at St. James Church, where both Ramiro and Concetta are active members. Both do volunteer service, at St. James Hospital, and the Ironbound Ambulance Squad, and are active in other ways in the community. The party was at Clifford St., decked out by Director Alice Shriner and her talented staff, with a cake donated by Councilman Amador, and complete with wedding traditions like bouquet and garter. It was Connie's first real wedding, because family illness prevented her from ever having a large wedding when she was married previously.

Ray asked Connie to "go steady" on Valentine's Day. The Cupids decorating the Senior Center must have done their job!.

The happy couple: Ray & Connie

Senior Baby Blanket Project Helps Little Ones Sleep

When Center Director Alice Shriner's grandaughter landed in the neo-natal intensive care unit in Morristown Memorial Hospital, she noticed the beautiful little blankets which fit each tiny crib. Everyone was hand made, and unique. The hospital said they wanted to give the baby cribs a personal touch, and yes, they could use more. Seniors at the Clifford St. Center got busy, and have created over a hundred and fifty blankets and tiny woolen hats!

Plan Ahead!

Essex County College
Ironbound Extension Center
432 Lafayette St.

Fall 2000 Registration

August 7 - 28, September 5 - 22
8:00 to 9:30 PM

Classes Begin September 26

* A variety of college courses for college credit.
* ESL classes.
* Financial aid is available to qualified persons

For more information call 465-0947 after 6 PM.

Visitas Turísticas Nacionais ao Parque de Riverbank

No dia 26 de Abril de 2000 o Riverbank Park recebeu a vsita doSr.Charles Birnbaum, autor dos regulamentos para Conservação Histórica dos Serviços de Parques Nacionais em Washington, D.C. O Sr. Birnbaum esteve em Newark para dar uma palestra no Newark Museum e para participar nas cerimónias do Branch Brook Park. O Branch Brook e o Riverbank Park fazem agora parte do "National Historic Registor" os quais foram desenhados por Frederick Law Olmsted e sus associados. O Sr. Frederick Olmsted sublinhou a importância da existência de lindos parquese na cidade. Tambím foi ele que desenhou o Central Park em New York city.

O Sr. Birnbaum visitou o Riverbank Park com os membrosdoSPARK (Save the Park At RiverbanK) este é o grupo que fez tudo o que pode para evitar que o Riverbakn Park nã se tornasee num mero estádio de baseball do segunda divisão.

Enquanto que os trabalhos de recuperação do Park sofreram um abrandamento nos últimos meses devido a divergências entre o construtor, os consultores, e o Essex County Improvement Authority, o projecto de restauro dos edificios continuou em bom ritmo. As propostas para o trabalho de arquitetura deverão ir a concurso nos princípios de Junho, e os trabalhos nos edificios deverão começar este Verão.

A inaguração do Park está projectada para a Primavera de 2001. O SPARK nomeou um grupo de indivíduos que se dedicará a questões relacionados com a manatenção, segurança, e programação de actividades aquando da reabertura do Park. "Esperamos ter a adesão de toda a comunidade para a celebração de reabertura do Park," disse Begonia Kowet, membro do SPARK.

Entanto o SPARk preparou um "slideshow" one se mostra as diversas fases do trabalho levado a cabo no Park. Este "sldeshow" tem sido apresentado em várias escolas locais,na biblioteca da Van Buren St. e no Centro para a Terceira Idade sito na Clifford St. se você leitor tiver um grupo de pessoas que deseje ver estes "slides", contacte Nancy Zak pelo telefone (973) 589-3353.

Ironbound Community Corporation

Summer Blast

30 de Junho, 10 AM a 6 PM
432 Lafayette St.

Serviços Gratis Incluem:
para crianças até aos 6 anos
Presão arterial Exame da vista Exame dos dentes

para adultos:
Presão arterial Exame de gravidez
Mammografia/PAP

Seminários todo o dia incluem: Educação para pais, Seminario de leituras

Actividades
Musica, Palhaços, E Muito Mais!!!

Comece o verão em boa saude!

Fatos Sobre O Cancer De Mama

* Todas as mulheres podem contrair cancer de mama.
* 75% das mulheres detectadas de cancer na familia.
* 93% das mulheres que são diagnosticadas com cancer em seu estagio incial sobrevivem.
* O cancer detectado no estagio inicial e mais facil de ser tratado.

16 de Junio, 6 - 8 PM
432 Lafayette St.
Exames Gratis

Prevenção de Cancer de Mama e Cervical. Informações: 465-0555.

24 de Junho
St. Stephan's, Ferry St. & Wilson Ave.
10 AM - 2 PM
Palestra sobre Cancer de Mama e Cervical. Unidade Moval de UMDNJ. Informação: Anita, 972-5672.

Dioxin: Trabalho Para Começar No Local

Era 1983. A piscina Hayes estava fechada devido a contaminação de dioxin. A Agência de Proteção Ambiental (EPA) montou um reboque para aceitar reclamações de saúde dos residentes. Homens com fatos brancos que se pareciam astronautas aspiravam a sujeira das ruas. O nível mais alto de contaminação de dioxin registrado neste país foi encontrado no Ironbound, na fábrica Diamond Alkali, localizada na 120 Lister Ave. Dioxin, uma substância química mortal que pode danificar o sistema imune humano, foi formada durante a produção de Agent Orange, usada durante a Guerra de Vietnã.

Em Abril de este ano, dezessete anos depois, o EPA anunciou o começo de trabalho com o que eles chamam um "sistema de retenção." A companhia, dona do terreno, que é responsável pelo trabalho, Chemical Land Holdings, Inc. construirá um muro ao redor do local e cobrirá o terreno contaminado para protegerlo de exposição aos elementos. A cobertura é projetada durar 30 anos. Um sistema de monitor será instalado debaixo do terreno para segurar que a terra ou água contaminada não está vazando. O trabalho custará $20 milhões.

O sistema de retenção foi aprovado pelo EPA em 1997 depois que residentes da comunidade rejeitaram um plano para incinerar o material contaminado. "O plano da EPA é. a melhor alternativa entre vários escolhas ruins," diz Aronld Cohen do Comitê do Ironbound Contra Desperdícios Tóxicos (ICATW). "No futuro, pode haver outras alternativas."

A determinação de tribunal federal com Chemical Land Holdings, Inc., requer que a companhia tem que avaliar, cada 2 anos, se qualquer tecnologia nova existe que poderia prover um remédio mais protetor e permanente para o dioxin. Debaixo da ordem do tribunal, Chemical Land Holdings, Inc. é responsável pelo custo, construção e manutenção do sistema de retenção.

Por causa de preocupações de residentes, várias medidas serão postsas em lugar durante o trabalho de construção. Serão incluías:

* O ar será monitorado na área durante o trabalho para assegurar que nenhuma toxina é lançada na comunidade circunvizinha.

* Haverá um numero telefonico de emergência que os residentes podem chamar se observam qualquer problema. É **212-632-4248**. O EPA também estará no local numa base regular para lidar com as reclamações dos residentes.

Sócios do ICATW também elevaram o assunto de "compensação para comunidade." "Uma descoberta assim significa que o valor da sua propriedade baixa e a sua saúde sofre," disse Steve Powell do ICATW. "É justo que a companhia com milhões de dólares responsável por poluir esta comunidade faça algo para ajudar a comunidade.

Até agora, Chemical Land Holdings está de acordo em empregar contratantes da área e outras opções, como ajudar a comunidade adquirir terreno para oportunidades recreativas, também estão a ser exploradas.

"Residentes tem tido um papel importante em minimizar o dano deste dioxin para a comunidade até este ponto," diz Joe Nardone do ICATW. "É importante que os residentes sejam bem informados e continuam a monitor este projecto de perto."

A Resolução na Ann St. E Construção De Novas Escolas

A superlotação das escolas na nossa área, foi o objecto que levou à convocação, por parte do Ironbound Community Corporation e da Newark Public School District, de 3 reuniões durante o passado mês de Fevereiro.

O resultado imediato das três reuniões efectuadas sobre a problematica de superlotação das salas de escolas circunvizinhas, jáfez sortir efeito, normeadamente no que diz respeito à escola da Ann St. A partir de Setembro irão ser instaladas seis salas ao lado da escola que temporariamente servirão para diminuir o excessivo numero de alunos tornando assim o meio de ensino mais eficaz. "Isto vai ser uma melhoria tremenda," disse o coordinador Joseph Maccia. "Vou ter a possibilidade de mudar as turmas todas do 5.0 ano para essas salsa de aula, e isso significa que as salas irão ficar com cerca de 20 alunos.

"Estamos muito contentes," disse Karen Acal, PTA presidente do conselho directivo na escola da Ann St. "As turmas serão menores e haverá mais eficácia a ensinar e a aprender."

"As tumas serão menores e havera mais eficacia a ensinar e a aprender."

Karen Acal, Ann St. School

O Supremo Tribunal do Estado de New Jersey, ordenou que o estado terá que suportar as despesas das escolas superlotadas bem como a construção de novos edificias nas zonas mais necessitadas. A Direcção Escolar de Newark (Newark School District), respondeu satisfatoriamente às necessidades nas escolas do Ironbound, a curto prazo, bem como à apresentação de planos para novas instalações.

Membros da comissão e alguns residentes interessados tem-se encontrado periodicamente com consultores da direcção escolar, para proporem onde serão construidas as novas escolas. A discussão tocou em vários assuntos, tais como:

* O desejo de manter a fachada dos prédios intacta.

* A necessidade de encontrar lugares livres de residuos tóxicos, e a disponibilidade dos terrenos.

* A questão do transporte dos estudantes que vivam mais distantas da escola.

Enquanto a Direção discute estes assuntos, as propostas estão a mudar.

"As opiniões da comunidade tem sido essenciais para o desenvolvimento deste processo," disse Corwin Frost, da Direcção Escolar de Newark. "Nós pretendemos manter o dialogo com a comunidade à medida que todo este processo se desenvolve."

"As opiniões da comunidade tem sido essenciais."

Corwin Frost,

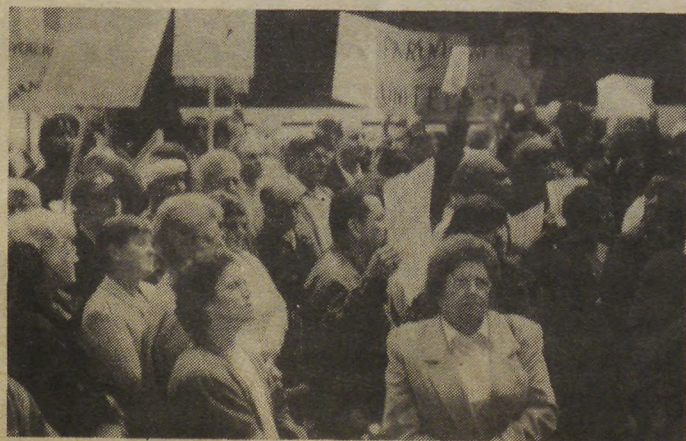
'Uma questão importante é a escolha dos terrenos para construir as escolas ou considerar outras opções que temos em mãos e reservá-los imediato," disse Joseph Rendeiro, director da Hawkin St. School. "Se esperamos muito mais, os terrenos vão desaparecer!"

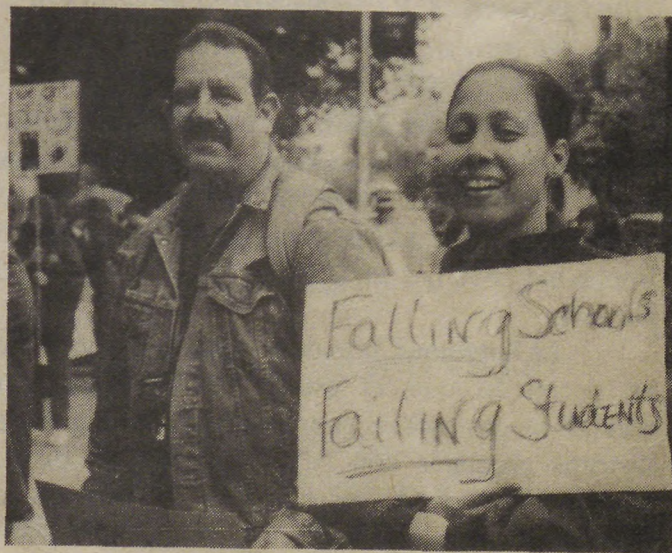
Para mais informação àcerca das ultimas propostas, lcoalização das escolas, e próximas reuniões, quiera por favor contactar Lito Miranda ou Nancy Zak através do telefone número 589-3353.

Os Residentes Conseguiram Uma Vitória Quando O Mayor Anunciou A Vontade De Recuperar Terrenos

Os residentes do Ironbound marcharam pela Lafayette St. até à Camara Municipal quarta-feira dia 19 de Abril e juntaram-se a centenas de outros residentes de Newark para uma manifestação onde exigiram "Terrenos Para As Escolas." Exbindo balões vermelhos, crianças, pais e pessoas idosas iniciaram a marcha na escola da Lafayette St. escoltados pela polícia. O autocarro do clube dos rapazes e reparigas do Ironbound transportou residentes que não podiam caminhar, e o autorcarro amerelo da Corporação da Comunidade liderou a parada. "O que queremos? Escolas Novas!" "Quando as queremos?" "Agora"! era o canto.

Na camara municipal, residentes de todos os bairros pediram ao "Mayor" ao Conselho Municipal e à Comissão Central de Planeamento para que reservassem terrenos para as escolas novas mandatadas pelo tribunal para serem construidas em Newark. O caso Abbott vs. Burke ordena que os distritos escolares pobres substituam as suas escolas inferiores e densamente frequentadas. As escolas do Ironbound estão 62% a 200% acima da média de frequencia.

"Queremos que Newark seja um lugar onde ná uma visão real do futuro para os residentes dos nossos bairros, ou um lugar onde as construções são executadas por quem chega primeiro, ou tem mais dinheiro ou mais influencia politica?" perguntou um pessoa. "Queremos uma cidade onde as necessidades e ideias dos habitantes sejam incluídas e respeitadas, ou sejamos ignorados e mandados embora?"

Lidia Rossi, uma mai ligada a escola da Ann St., pedia à cidade que fizesse da educação "a prioridade numero um.." Lito Miranda, um pai ligado à escola da Hawkins St., enforçou a necessidade da cidade colucar espaços para as escolas nos mapas de uso dos terrenos de novo plano mestro proposto ("masterplan").

Duas grandes rimas de petições forma entregues ao Mayor pelos residentes protestando decisões recentes da Comissão de Planeamento Central, em que terreno que seria necessario para a expansão da escola foi aprovado para urbanização habitacional Depois da manifestação o Mayor Sharpe James anunciou que a cidade experimentara obter os terrenos, a comunidade do bairrodo North Ward quere para a expansão das escolas e que tinham sido cedidos aos urbanizadores.

Trenton: 22 de Maio

Em 22 de Maio passado, cerca de 300 residentes de todos os bairros de Newark deslocaram-se a Trenton para e, em frente da sede da administração do estado de New Jersey, pressionar para que o estado construa escolas em Newark, suportando todos os encargos da construção. Ao abirgo da lei "Abbott vs. Burke," que exige que o estado suporte 100% dos custos de construção de escolas em distritos pobres.

La Escuela Ann St. Recibe Ayuda & A Donde Iran Nuestras Nuevas Escuelas?

Un resultado inmediato de las tres audiciones por mas escuelas, que se llevaron a cabo en Ironbound durante Febrero, fue el que la escuela Ann St. recibira ayuda con el problema de sobrepoblación en Septiembre. Seis salones de unidades temporeras seran instaladas al laco de la escuela. "Esta sera una tremenda mejoria," dijo el Principal Joseph Maccia. "Voy a poder mover todos los quintos grados a estos salones, y eso significa que el tamaño de las clases bajara a 20 por lo menos."

'Nosotros estamos muy contentos," dijo Karen Acal, presdenta del PTA de la escuela. "Esto nos permitira tener tamaños de clases mas pequeños, y eso significa ensenanza y aprendizaje mas efectivo."

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Sobrepoblacion en las escuelas de nuestros barrios a sido un tema constante de las tres reuniones que se llevaron a cabo en Febrero, juntamente auspiciadas por la Corporación de la Comunidad de Ironbound (ICC), y el Distrito Publicio escolar de Newark.

La Suprema Corte del estado de Nueva Jersey ha decretado que el estado debera pagar para reemplazar las esculas sobrepobladas y antiguas, en distritos escolares con bajos ingresos. El distrito escolar de Newark respondio a la petición de Ironbound por mas información em quanto a planes para facilidades, y se llevaron a cabo tres reuniones comunitarias durante el mes de febrero. Un numero de residentes firmo para formar parte del Comite para continuar trabajando por esta causa.

Miembros de este comite, y otros residentes interesados, se han continuado reuniendo con especialistas del Distrito escolar para tratar de finalizar las propuestas, sobre donde estaran localizadas las nuevas escuelas Discuciones han tocado muchos temas incluyendo:

* La decisión de mantener algunos de los caracteres de los viejos edificios historicos. El distrito ha dicho que si la comunidad lo prefiere, y el costo lo permite, eso puede ser uma posibilidad.

* La necesidad de limpiar los solares de desperdicios toxicos.

* La interogante de transportar estudiantes de locales alejadas del vecindario.

* La disponibilidad de terreno.

Mientras el distrito investiga estos hechos. Las propuestas estan cambiando.

"Los comentarios de la comunidad han sido escenciales para este proceso hasta ahora," dijo Corwin Forst, del Diestrito Publico Escolar de Newark. "Esperamos poder continuar este dialogo ocn la comunidad segun nos movemos adelante."

"Lo importante es que nosotros identificamos el terreno que queremos para las escuelas, y estamos considerando diferentes opciones para preservar los terrnos ahora," dijo Joseph Rendeiro, principal de la escuela Hawkins St, "Si esperamos, toda la tierra disponible desaparecerá."

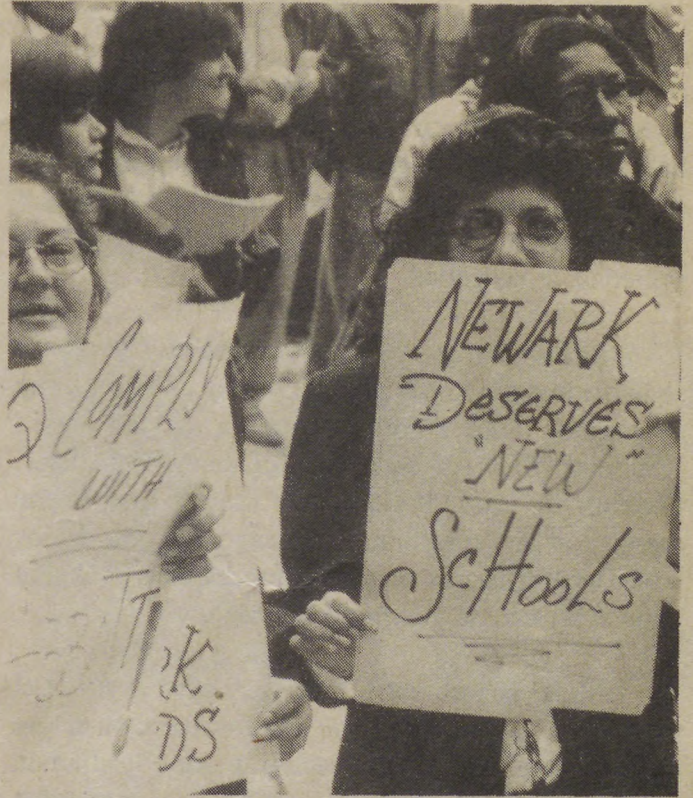
Para mas información sobre las ultimas propuestas de locales para neuvas escuelas y las proximas reuniones para las escuelas, llame a Lito Miranda o Nancy Zak al 589-3353.

Residentes Ganan Una Victoria: El Alcalde Anuncia Su Esfuerzo Por Recobrar Terrenos Para Escuelas

Cientos de residentes de Newark - niños, padres y personas mayores de edad - ocuparon los escalones de la Alcaldia el miercoles 19 de Abril de 2000, para llevarle un mensaje a al Alcaldia: "Necesitamos terrenso para construir neuvas escuelas." Residentes quieren que la ciudad de Newark reserve los terrenos para las nuevas escuelas que son mandadas por una orden de corte para ser construidas en Newark. El caso de Abbott vs. Burke ordena que los distritos escolares pobres reemplazar las escuelas que estan sobre pobladas. Newark tiene que reemplazar o construir 34 escuelas en la ciudad.

"¿Que es lo que verdaderamente queremos para Newark?"pregunto una persona. "¿Queremos que sea una ciudad con una verdadera visión del futuro o un lugar donde el criterio para construcción depende mas en quién tiene mas dinero, quién llega primero, o quién tiene mas influencia en la politica? ¿Queremos una ciudad donde las necessidades e ideas del pueblo son respetadas o una ciudad donde la comunidad es ignorada y despreciada?"

Lidia Rossi, una madre del Ann St. School, le pidió a la ciudad que 'haga a la educación la primera prioridad." Lito Miranda, un padre de Hawkins St. School, le dio gran importancia para la necesidad de establecer sitios deisgnados para la construcción de neuvas escuelas en los mapas de "Land Use", porque como dice el "Si parques, escuelas y sitios para la comunidad de designan en los mapas, previene que en esos terrirtorios haya mas construcción."

Dos grandes fajos de peticiones fueron entregado al el Alcalde por residentes que estan protestando por las recientes decisiones de la Junta Central de Planes en la cual el terreno que es necesarion para la expansion de la escuela aprovada para el desarollo de viviendas. Despues de la protesta, el Alcalde, Sharpe James, anuncio que la ciudad tratar de obtener el terreno que la comunidad del Distrito del Norte queria usar para la expancion de las escuelas nuevamente que estan bajo la poder de los contratistas.

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Dioxin: Trabajo Para Comenzar

Era el verano del 1983. El gobernador estaba en “la isla.” La piscina de la calle Hayes estaba cerrada debido a la contaminación de dioxin. La Agencia de Protección del medio ambiente (EPA) había establecido un acoplado para tomar quejas de la salud. Hombres vestios en batas blancas parecidos a astronautas caminaban con aspiradoras limpiando la suciedad de las calles.

El nivel mas alto de contaminación de dioxin se había registrado por primera vez en este país y fue encontrado aquí en el Ironbound, en la fábrica Diamond Alkali, situada en la avenida 120 Lister. Dioxin, un producto químico mortal que puede destruir el sistema inmune humano fue uno de los componentes usado durante la producción de Agent Orange durante la guerra de Vietnam.

Este año en abril, diecisiete años después el EPA anunció el comienzo de una construcción en ese mismo sitio donde se va a instalar lo que ellos llaman un “sistema de contenación.” La compañía responsable por el trabajo Chemical Land Holdings Inc. construirá las paredes alrededor del sitio y las cubrirá para proteger contra la exposición a los elementos. Una cubierta o casquilla ha estado diseñado para durar por lo menos 30 años. Un sistema de control será instalado para prevenir el escape de agua subterránea y elementos contaminantes. El costo del trabajo costará $20 millón.

El “sistema de contención” fue aprobado por el EPA en 1987 después que muchos residentes en el Ironbound rechazaron un plan para incinerar la material contaminada. “El plan del EPA es el mejor alternativo entre un número de malas opciones” dijo Arnold Cohen, de Ironbound Committee Against Toxic Waste (ICATW). “En el futuro tal vez existirá otras alternativas.”

La corte federal requiere que cada dos años la compañía Chemical Land Holdings debe evaluar si existe alguna nueva technología que podría propocionar un remedio mas protector y mas permanente para el dioxin. Bajo orden judicial Chemical Land Holdings Inc. es responsible por el costo, construcción y mantenimiento del “sistema de contención.”

Debido a las inquietudes de residentes :

*Regulaciones con respeto al aire durante tiempo de construcción para asegurar que la comunidad no será expuesto a tóxicos.

*Un número de emergencia será establecido para residentes si en caso ellos observan cualquier problema. El número es **212-637-4248** (o 973-282-0558) y El EPA también estará presente durante tiempo de construcción.

“Residentes han logrado tomar un papel importante en reduciendo los peligros del dioxin en la comunidad hasta ahora.Es importante que residentes esen bien informado sobre este plan.”

Joe Nardone, ICATW

El ICATW también hace la observación que compañías como Chemical Land Holdings tienen ciertas obligaciones hacía la comunidad que están exponiendo a polución. Steve Powell un miembro de ICATW declaró. “Estas compañías multi-millonarias tienen que recompensar por exponer estas comunidades al dioxin.”

Hasta ahora Chemical Land Holdings esta de acuerdo de emplear un número de contratistas de la área local para proveer otras opciones como ayudando la comunidad en obteniendo terreno para la construcción de escuelas.

“Residentes han logrado tomar un papel importante en reduciendo los peligros del dioxin en la comunidad hasta ahora,” dijo Joe Nardone de ICATW. “Es importante que residentes estén bien informado sobre este plan.”

Visitante Nacional Visita al Parque Riverbank

El 26 de Abril del 2000, el Parque Riverbank tuvo una visita de Charles Birnbaum, auter de las regualciones de la Preservación Historica del Servicio de Parque Nacional en Washington, D.C. El Señor Birnbaum estaba en Newark para dar una platica en el Museo de Newark y para participar en cermonias del Parque Branch Brook. Branch Brook y Riverbank fueron diseñados por Frederick Law Olmstead y sus socios. Los dos parques son parte del Registro Historico Nacional. Frederick Law Olmsted fue un campeon en la lucha para darle lilmportancia a parques bellos en la ciudad. El tambien diseño el Parque central de la Ciudad de Nueva York.

El Señor Birnbaum visito a Riverbank con miembros de SPARK (Salve el Parque en RiverbanK), el grupo que salvo el parque de convertirse en un estadio de beisbol de liga menor, y con el experto de preservacion del diseño de SPARK, Daniel Dowd.

SPARK ayuda a colectar y darle los comentarios al arquitecto, Greg Comito, sobre como los edificios seran usados para que el pueda desarollar sus diseñlos. Ofertas para el trabajo architectórico esta programada salir en los principios de Junio y el trabajo en los edificios empezaran durante el verano.

La proyectada abertura para el parque es la Primavera del 2001. SPARK ha creado un grupo dedicado a los asuntos del mantenimiento, seguridad y programación ya que el parque veulva a abrir. "Esperamos que tengamos una maravillos celebración comunitaria cuando el parque vuelva a abrir,' dijo Begonia Kowet, una miembra de SPARK.

Mientras tanto, SPARK tiene un espectaculo de transperencias sobre las diferentes etapas del trabajo del parque que han enseñado en numerosas escuelas locales. Este espectaculo de transperencias fue enseñado en la biblioteca Van Buren St.el 26 de Marzo y en el centro de Ancianos de Clifford St. Si usted tiene ung rupo que quisiera ver el espectaculo de transparencias, llame a Nancy Zak al 589-3353.

Essex County College

Centro de Extención en Ironbound

Registración para el Otono 2000
Agosto 7 - 28 y Septiembre 5 - 22

Clases comienzan: Septiembre 26, 2000

Para mas informacion, llame 465-0947 despues de 6:00 PM

Los niños del Centro de Ironbound llevaron puestos sus trajes tipicos de los paises nativos de sus familias, para celebrar el Dia Internacional durante el mes de Abril. Muchos padres contribuyeron con comidas tipicas de sus paises para el delicioso almeruzo que fue servido esa dia.

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